(b) if so, whether it is enough to remove prejudices against the girl child and prevent female infanticide;

(c) whether such schemes would bring about a qualitative change in the society; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is a proposal to introduce a Centrally sponsored scheme in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana. The scheme shall not only integrate the existing National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) and the other ongoing Maternal Health Scheme but will also introduce several new initiatives. Among other things, cash assistance of Rs. 500/-for birth of male child and Rs. 1000/-for birth of female child will be provided to expectant women belonging to Below Poverty Line families up to two live births.

(b) to (d) The scheme is aimed at primarily to improve utilization of anti-natal care and institutional deliveries and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers in order to reduce neo-natal, infant and maternal mortality, leading to improving child survival and maternal health. The proposed scheme is envisaged as a step towards removing prejudices against the girl child.

With a view to remove the wide spread discrimination against the girl child, intervention of schemes such as the above and the other Reproductive and Child Health Programmes are being undertaken. Further, the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 and Amendments thereof have been enacted by the Parliament with a view to prohibit sex selection before or after conception and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques and for prevention of their misuse in sex determination leading to female foeticide and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Promotion of siddha system of medicine

65. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of a hospital to promote siddha system of medicines at Chennai is progressing very slowly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to complete the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The construction work of National Institute of Siddha is progressing satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The civil construction of buildings for National Institute of Siddha are expected to be completed by 2004.

(e) Does not arise.

Expenditure on CGHS medicines

66. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased:

(a) the details of the expenditure on CGHS medicines of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic, Unani, Allopathic system etc. in its Store Depots during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that medicines of Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani system are of poor quality;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The information in respect of CGHS Delhi is as under:—